

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A scanning system comprising:

a print device with a scanner function, which allows printing and scanning by selectively mounting a print head and scan head on a head mounting portion;  
5 and

an external computer which is connected to said print device to be able to communicate therewith, and comprises a scanner software for controlling scanning  
10 of said print device,

wherein when said scan head is mounted on said head mounting portion and a predetermined preparation is detected, said print device communicates with said external computer to start said scanner software.

15 2. The system according to claim 1, wherein said print device is designed to send a scanner start signal to said external computer when said scan head is mounted on said head mounting portion, said scanner software comprises a detection module for detecting the  
20 scanner start signal, said detection module alone in said scanner software is running in a standby state in which said printer device has not been started as a scanner, and modules other than said detection module in said scanner software are started when said  
25 detection module detects the scanner start signal.

3. The system according to claim 2, wherein when all the modules in said scanner software are running, said detection module uses a sufficiently small work area of said external computer compared to other modules.

5 4. The system according to claim 1, wherein said print head is an ink-jet print head.

5. A scanning system comprising:

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a print device with a scanner function, which allows printing and scanning by selectively mounting a  
10 print head and scan head on a head mounting portion;  
and

an external computer which is connected to said print device to be able to communicate therewith, and comprises a scanner software for controlling scanning  
15 operation of said print device,

wherein when said scan head is mounted on said head mounting portion and an original is set on said print device, said print device communicates with said external computer to start said software.

20 6. The system according to claim 5, wherein said print device is designed to send a scanner start signal to said external computer when said scan head is mounted on said head mounting portion, said scanner software comprises a detection module for detecting the  
25 scanner start signal, said detection module alone in said scanner software is running in a standby state in

which said printer device has not been started as a scanner, and modules other than said detection module in said scanner software are started when said detection module detects the scanner start signal.

5 7. The system according to claim 6, wherein when all the modules in said scanner software are running, said detection module uses a sufficiently small work area of said external computer compared to other modules.

10 8. The system according to claim 5, wherein said print head is an ink-jet print head.

9. The system according to claim 5, further comprising prescan selection means for selecting whether or not a prescan is made upon scanning the original, and wherein when said scanner software is  
15 started and it is selected by said prescan selection means that the prescan is to be made, an image of the original is prescanned and read into said scanner software.

10. The system according to claim 9, wherein said  
20 scanner software displays the prescanned and read image.

11. A scanning system comprising:

a print device with a scanner function, which allows printing and scanning by selectively mounting a print head and scan head on a head mounting portion;

25 and

an external computer which is connected to said print device to be able to communicate therewith, and comprises a scanner software which can control scanning of said print device, and an application software which  
5 can edit an image scanned from said print device,

wherein when said scan head is mounted on said head mounting portion and an original is set on said print device and said application software is running, said print device communicates with said external  
10 computer to start said scanner software, to read an image of the original into said scanner software, and to transfer the read image to said application software.

12. The system according to claim 11, wherein said print device is designed to send a scanner start signal  
15 to said external computer when said scan head is mounted on said head mounting portion, said scanner software comprises a detection module for detecting the scanner start signal, said detection module alone in said scanner software is running in a standby state in  
20 which said printer device has not been started as a scanner, and modules other than said detection module in said scanner software are started when said detection module detects the scanner start signal.

13. The system according to claim 12, wherein when  
25 all the modules in said scanner software are running, said detection module uses a sufficiently small work

area of said external computer compared to other modules.

14. The system according to claim 11, wherein said print head is an ink-jet print head.

5 15. The system according to claim 11, further comprising prescan selection means for selecting whether or not a prescan is made upon scanning the original, and wherein when said scanner software is started and it is selected by said prescan selection  
10 means that the prescan is to be made, an image of the original is prescanned and read into said scanner software.

16. The system according to claim 15, wherein said scanner software displays the prescanned and read image.

15 17. The system according to claim 11, wherein said scanner software comprises application software run detection means for detecting whether or not said application software is running.

18. A method of controlling a scanning system, which  
20 comprises a print device with a scanner function, which allows printing and scanning by selectively mounting a print head and scan head on a head mounting portion, and an external computer which is connected to said print device to be able to communicate therewith, and  
25 comprises a scanner software which can control scanning of said print device, comprising the step of:

controlling said print device to communicate with  
said external computer so as to start said scanner  
software, when said scan head is mounted on said head  
mounting portion and a predetermined preparation is  
5 detected.

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19. A method of controlling a scanning system, which  
comprises a print device with a scanner function, which  
allows printing and scanning by selectively mounting a  
print head and scan head on a head mounting portion,  
10 and an external computer which is connected to said  
print device to be able to communicate therewith, and  
comprises a scanner software which can control scanning  
of said print device, comprising the step of:

controlling said print device to communicate with  
15 said external computer so as to start said scanner  
software and to read an image of the original into said  
scanner software, when said scan head is mounted on  
said head mounting portion and an original is set on  
said print device.

20 20. A method of controlling a scanning system, which  
comprises a print device with a scanner function, which  
allows printing and scanning by selectively mounting a  
print head and scan head on a head mounting portion,  
and an external computer which is connected to said  
25 print device to be able to communicate therewith, and  
comprises a scanner software which can control scanning

of said print device, and an application software which can edit an image scanned from said print device, comprising the step of:

controlling said print device to communicate with  
5 said external computer so as to start said scanner software, to read an image of the original into said scanner software, and to transfer the read image to said application, when said scan head is mounted on said head mounting portion and an original is prepared  
10 on said print device and said application software is running.

21. A storage medium that stores a control program for controlling a scanning system, which comprises a print device with a scanner function, which allows  
15 printing and scanning by selectively mounting a print head and scan head on a head mounting portion, and an external computer which is connected to said print device to be able to communicate therewith, and comprises a scanner software which can control scanning  
20 of said print device, said control program comprising:

a code of the step of controlling said print device to communicate with said external computer so as to start said scanner software, when said scan head is mounted on said head mounting portion.

22. A storage medium that stores a control program for controlling a scanning system, which comprises a

print device with a scanner function, which allows  
printing and scanning by selectively mounting a print  
head and scan head on a head mounting portion, and an  
external computer which is connected to said print  
5 device to be able to communicate therewith, and  
comprises a scanner software which can control scanning  
of said print device, said control program comprising:

10 a code of the step of controlling said print  
device to communicate with said external computer so as  
to start said scanner software and to read an image of  
the original into said scanner software, when said scan  
head is mounted on said head mounting portion and an  
original is set on said print device.

23. A storage medium that stores a control program  
15 for controlling a scanning system, which comprises a  
print device with a scanner function, which allows  
printing and scanning by selectively mounting a print  
head and scan head on a head mounting portion, and an  
external computer which is connected to said print  
20 device to be able to communicate therewith, and  
comprises a scanner software which can control scanning  
of said print device, and an application software which  
can edit an image scanned from said print device, said  
control program comprising:

25 a code of the step of controlling said print  
device to communicate with said external computer so as



to start said scanner software, to read an image of the  
original into said scanner software, and to transfer  
the read image to said application software, when said  
scan head is mounted on said head mounting portion and  
5 an is set on said print device and said application  
software is running.

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